

# Mission Settlement

# 5

📖 Grade Level: 6-7

📖 Subject Areas:  
Science and Social Studies

📖 Duration:  
Pre-visit: 1-2 hours  
Visit: 1 day

📖 Setting:  
Classroom and Mission Espada

📖 Skills:  
Science: 6.14B Identify relationships between groundwater and surface water in a watershed.  
Social Studies: 7.10A Identify ways in which Texans have adapted to and modified the environment and analyze consequences of the modifications.

📖 Charting the Course:  
Prior to this activity, students should become familiar with underground and above ground water sources.

📖 Essential Terms:  
water source, *acequia*, well

## STRUCTURE

**Big Idea**  
**Where were the water sources located in a mission?**

### Objectives

Students will:

- ◆ Identify the location of water sources at their school
- ◆ Locate 4 wells and the *acequia* on a map of Mission San José while working in small groups
- ◆ Locate and map the well and *acequia* at Mission Espada during a visit

### Making Connections

Water has always been a primary consideration in the location and establishment of any settlement. The Spanish pattern of colonization typically utilized surface water and a system of *acequias* (irrigation ditches). This assured inhabitants of a centrally located, convenient and dependable water source.

Eventually, wells and then modern underground plumbing systems were added to mission lands which are used today. Additionally, there are

farmlands that still depend on the missions' *acequia* systems for irrigation.

### Materials

one per team of 2-3 students

Exploration (pre-visit):

- ◆ map of Mission San José

Elaboration and Evaluation (visit):

- ◆ map of Mission Espada

### Engagement (Pre-visit):

Have students identify the location of water sources at school.

### Exploration (Pre-visit):

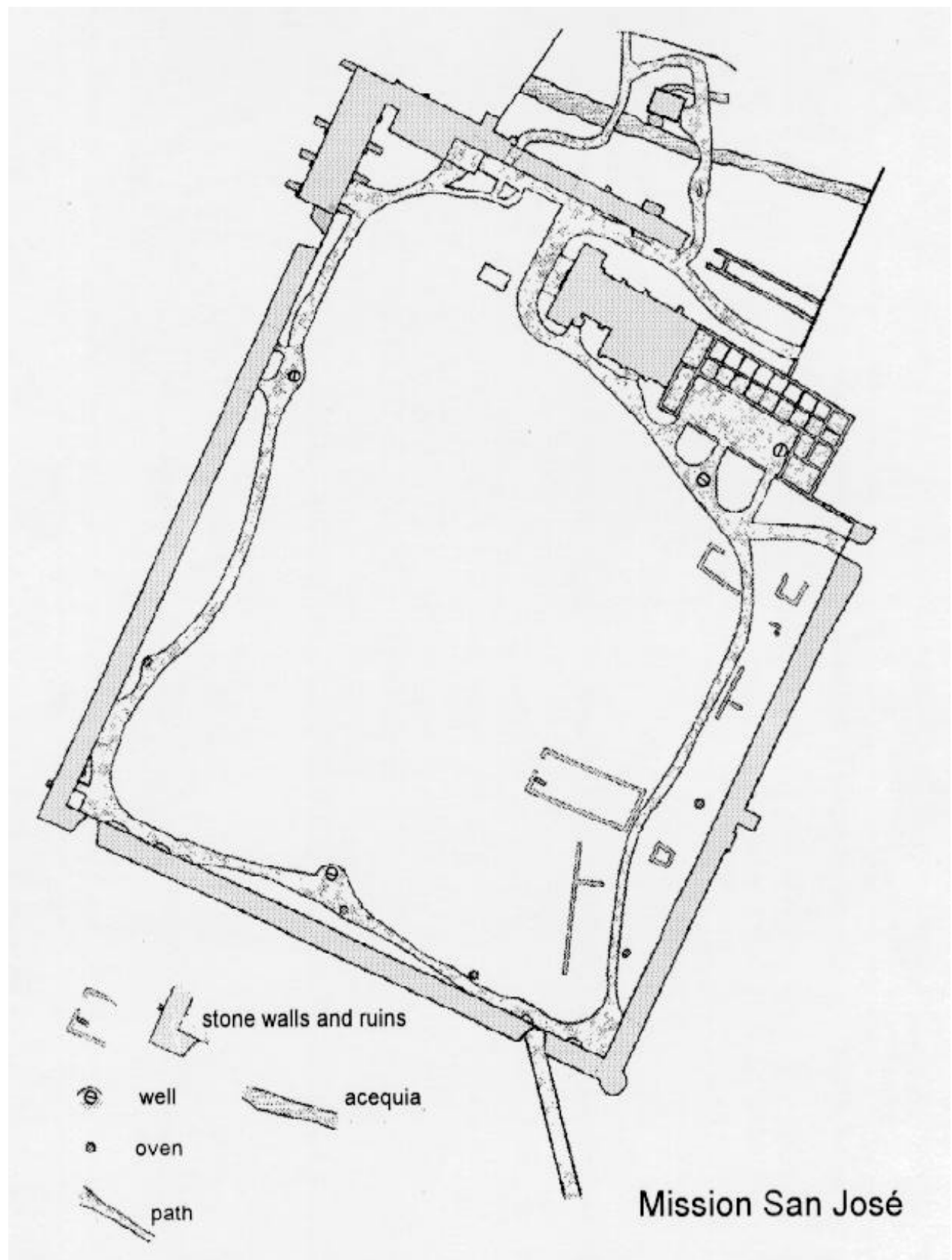
Discuss the concepts of central location and convenience. Working in teams, have them locate four (4) wells and the *acequia* on the map of San José.

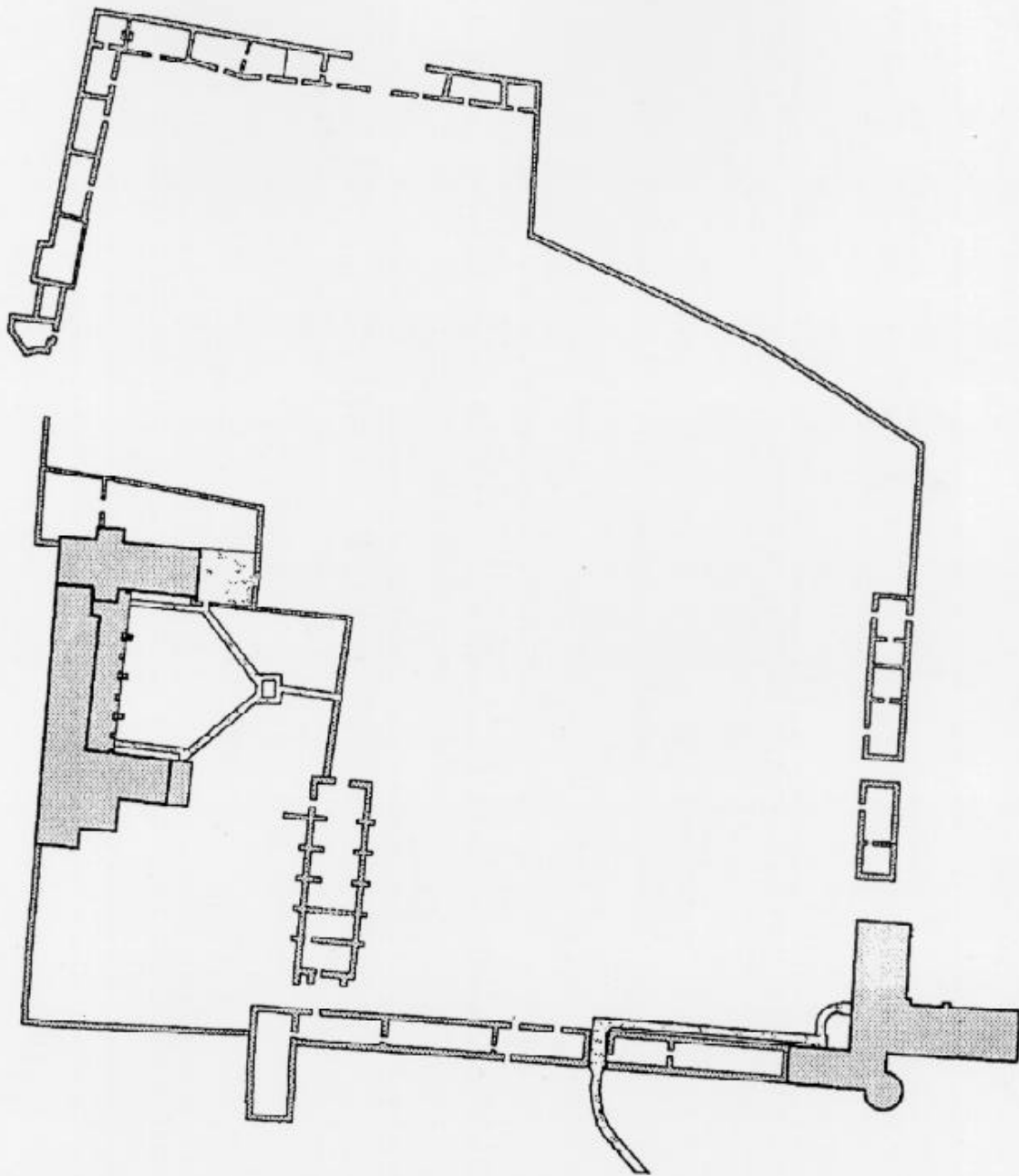
**Explanation  
(Pre-visit):**

Students should be able to identify where the water source is and what the source is (i.e. underground or above ground). The *acequias* run beside the walls of the missions and wells were dug within the mission compounds.

**Elaboration and  
Evaluation (Visit):**

Students will locate and map the water sources at Mission Espada. Include the well and *acequia*





## Mission Espada

